

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 04276 01 OF 02 032136Z POSS DUPE
ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 /056 W
-----108348 032314Z /66-61

R 032032Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5284
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 04276

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, PINT
SUBJ: WESTERN EUROPE'S NON-ATTENDANCE AT WFTU CONGRESS

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 442; (B) BRUSSELS 690; (C) BRUSSELS
789; (D) BRUSSELS 2361

1. THROUGH LETTERS, PHONE CALLS, AND PERSONAL VISITS,
OFFICIALS OF THE COMMUNIST WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE
UNIONS (WFTU) HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PROMOTE
WESTERN EUROPEAN ATTENDANCE AT THE WFTU WORLD CONGRESS IN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 04276 01 OF 02 032136Z POSS DUPE

PRAGUE APRIL 16-23, BUT THUS FAR THEY HAVE ENCOUNTERED
VERY LITTLE SUCCESS. SO REPORT LEADERS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU)
AND THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC).

2. THE ICFTU LAST MONTH SENT OUT A CIRCULAR LETTER TO
AFFILIATES ADVISING THEM NOT TO ATTEND, ICFTU ASSISTANT

GENERAL SECRETARY VANDERVEKEN TOLD US MARCH 3. ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT MADE A FORMAL SURVEY, VANDERVEKEN BELIEVES THAT THE FINNISH SAK WILL PROBABLY BE THE ONLY ICFTU AFFILIATE IN EUROPE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WFTU CONGRESS. MATHIAS HINTERSCHIED, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION, CONFIRMS THE NEGATIVE ATTITUDE THAT MOST ALL WESTERN EUROPEAN LABOR CENTERS HAVE TOWARD THE PRAGUE MEETING.

3. ONE REASON GIVEN FOR THIS ATTITUDE IS THE WFTU DECISION TO HOLD THE CONGRESS IN PRAGUE ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HINTERSCHIED, WHO YEARS AGO WAS NOT AT ALL AVERSE TO VISITING EASTERN EUROPE, GIVES TWO OTHER REASONS FOR THE WESTERN EUROPEAN LABOR ATTITUDES TOWARD THE WFTU:

A. DESPITE ADVANCE FANFARE THAT THE WFTU WAS REFORMING AND THAT THIS WAS TO BE AN "OPEN" CONGRESS, DOCUMENTS CIRCULATED IN ADVANCE SHOW THAT THE WFTU REMAINS ITS SAME OLD MONOLITHIC SELF. AS ALWAYS, ACCORDING TO HINTERSCHIED, THE WFTU PAPERS PAINT THE COMMUNIST WORLD AS A WORKERS' PARADISE AND THE NON-COMMUNIST WORLD AS A HELL.

B. AT THE SAME TIME, COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ARE CRACKING DOWN ON EVERY EFFORT OF WORKERS TO SPEAK UP IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 04276 01 OF 02 032136Z POSS DUPE

THEIR OWN BEHALF. HINTERSCHIED CITES THE CASE OF ALEXANDRE KLEBANOV, JAILED LAST MONTH IN THE SOVIET UNION AFTER ANNOUNCING THAT HE AND SOME FELLOW-WORKERS WERE TRYING TO ORGANIZE A UNION INDEPENDENT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION, SAYS HINTERSCHIED, HE HAS WORD ABOUT OTHER ANTI-LABOR REPRESSION IN POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

3. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD BE "UNTHINKABLE" TO SEND A UNION DELEGATION TO PRAGUE, SAYS HINTERSCHIED. AMONG THOSE WHO STRONGLY AGREE WITH HIM IS GEORGES DEBUNNE, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE BELGIAN FGTB, AND A VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ETUC.

4. DEBUNNE TOLD THE USEC AND EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHES RECENTLY THAT BORIS AVERYANOV, WFTU SECRETARY AND BOARD VICE CHAIRMAN, VISITED THE FGTB OFFICE IN JANUARY WHEN A WFTU DELEGATION WAS IN TOWN FOR A MEETING WITH THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR SECRETARIAT (REFS A AND B). AVERYANOV URGED DEBUNNE TO ATTEND THE PRAGUE CONGRESS WITH AN FGTB DELEGATION, AND, ACCORDING TO DEBUNNE, HE REPLIED THAT THE FGTB COULD NOT ATTEND--FOR REASONS

SIMILAR TO THOSE GIVEN ABOVE BY HINTERSCHIED. IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH US, DEBUNNE ADDED THAT HE COULD NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME INDIVIDUAL FGTB MEMBERS, ACTING ON THEIR OWN, MIGHT GO TO PRAGUE, AND MIGHT BE HAILED BY THE WFTU AS REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIAN LABOR.

5. WE RECENTLY LEARNED THAT, DURING HIS JANUARY STAY IN BRUSSELS, AVERYANOV ALSO CALLED ON ROGER LOUET, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE. AVERYANOV ALSO INVITED LOUET, A FORMER LEADER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 04276 02 OF 02 032136Z POSS DUPE
ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 /056 W
-----108349 032347Z /66

R 032032Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5285
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 04276

OF THE FRENCH FO, TO THE PRAGUE CONGRESS. IN DECLINING, LOUET SAID THAT THE WFTU MUST BE VERY ANXIOUS ABOUT ITS LOSS IN ITALY, WHERE THE CGIL LAST YEAR ANNOUNCED IT WAS GOING TO WITHDRAW COMPLETELY FROM THE WFTU. LOUET QUOTES AVERYANOV AS REPLYING THAT, WHATEVER THE CGIL'S LUCIANO LAMA AND OTHERS ARE SAYING FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION, NOTHING HAS CHANGED--THE CGIL IS AS CLOSE AS EVER TO THE WFTU, AND PARTICIPATES IN WFTU MBETINGS IN THE SAME WAY IT ALWAYS HAS. HINTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE04276
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780098-0467
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS EEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803111/aaaadqni.tel
Line Count: 169
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1abebab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 442, 78 BRUSSELS 690, 78 BRUSSELS 1978
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3133459
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WESTERN EUROPE'S NON-ATTENDANCE AT WFTU CONGRESS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, ICFTU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1abebab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014